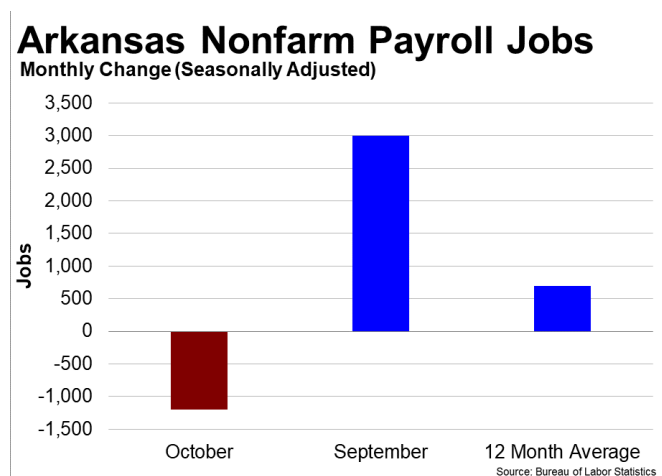
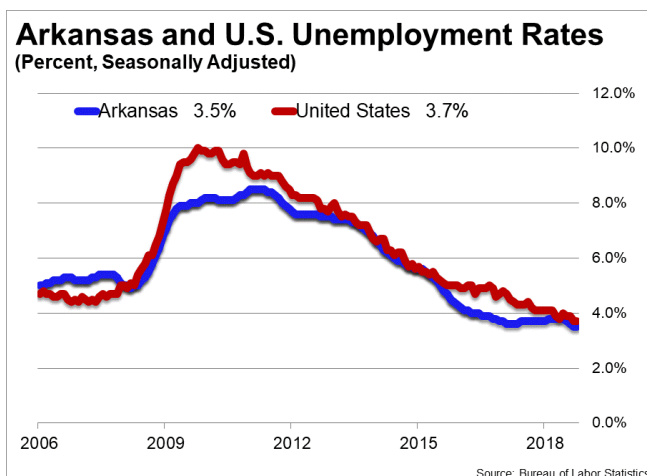


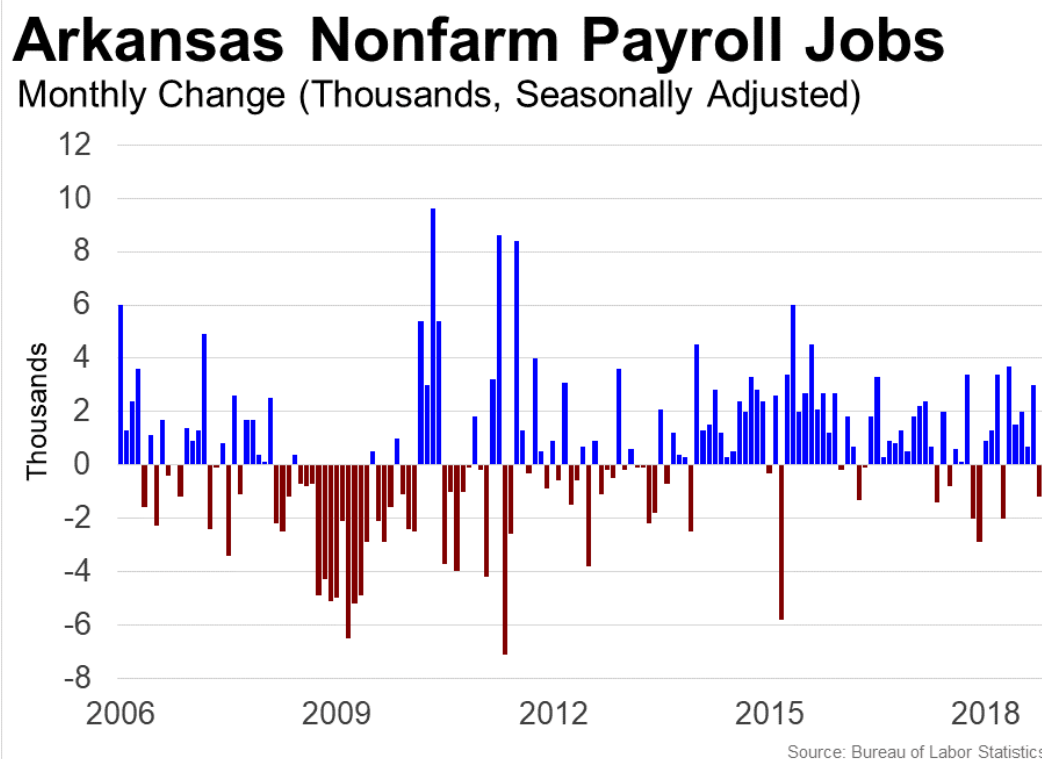


November 16, 2018

Summary

- **Arkansas lost 1,200 jobs and the unemployment rate was unchanged at 3.5 percent in October** according to Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data.
- **Over the past twelve months, Arkansas added 8,400 jobs** and the unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percentage point from 3.7 percent.
- **In October, Arkansas's private sector lost 1,300 jobs** and over the past twelve months it created 8,400 jobs.
- The number of **unemployed Arkansans rose by 211 in October**, and over the past year 8,060 Arkansans lost jobs.
- Arkansas's **labor force participation rate remains unchanged** from 57.4 percent in October. Since last year, the labor force participation rate fell 0.9 percentage point.
- The national unemployment rate **was unchanged at 3.7 percent in October**. State employment and unemployment data for November is scheduled for release on December 21, 2018. The national employment situation report for November will be released on Friday, December 7, 2018.





Arkansas Payroll Employment

Arkansas lost 1,200 jobs, or 0.10 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during October. In the prior month, Arkansas added 3,000 jobs. Over the past twelve months, nonfarm payrolls in Arkansas increased by 8,400, or 0.68 percent. Arkansas nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 8 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 250,000 jobs in October, or 0.17 percent. Over the 12-month period ending October 2018, nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,516,000 jobs, or 1.71 percent. Arkansas ranks 15th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

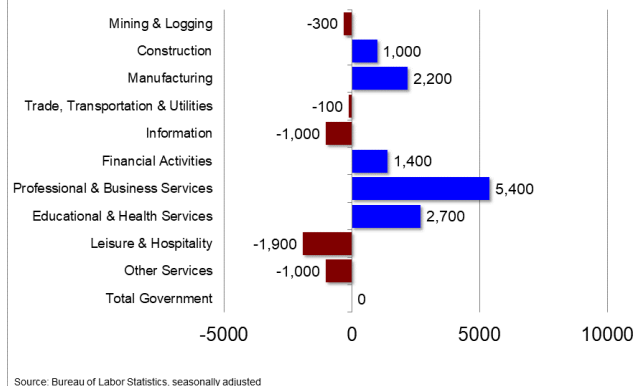
During October, Arkansas's private-sector lost 1,300 jobs, or 0.12 percent. The private-sector in Arkansas added 3,200 jobs in the prior month. Over the past twelve months, private-sector payrolls in Arkansas increased by 8,400, or 0.81 percent. Arkansas private-sector payroll employment has increased in 8 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private-sector payroll jobs increased by 246,000 jobs in October, or 0.19 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,450,000 jobs in the private-sector, an increase of 1.96 percent. Arkansas ranks 16th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private-sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during October were Leisure & Hospitality (+200) and Educational & Health Services (+200). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-700) and Manufacturing (-400).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Professional & Business Services (+5,400) and Educational & Health Services (+2,700). The poorest performing sectors during the last twelve months were Leisure & Hospitality (-1,900), Information (-1,000), and Other Services (-1,000).

Change in Arkansas Payroll Employment by Sector over Past 12 Months



Arkansas Labor Force Statistics

Labor Force Participation

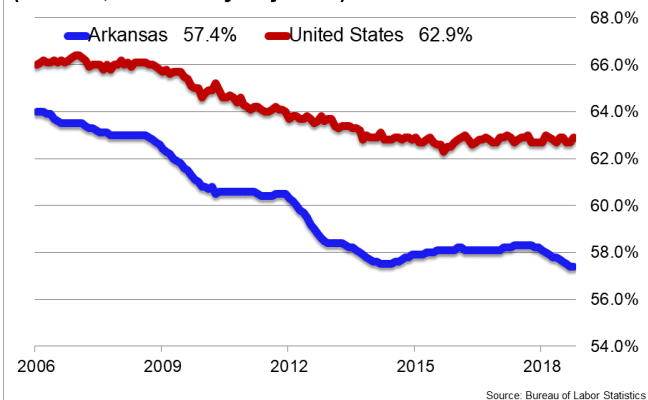
The labor force participation rate in Arkansas was unchanged at 57.4 percent in October. At 57.4 percent, Arkansas has one of the five lowest labor force participation rates in the nation. The labor force participation rate in Arkansas is unchanged from a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in Arkansas was 62.7 percent in November 2008. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Arkansas occurred in January 1995 when the labor force participation rate hit 65.1 percent. The 10-year low for the labor force participation rate was 57.4 percent in October 2018. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in April 1976 when the labor force participation rate hit 57.3 percent. The national labor force participation rate rose by 0.2 percentage point to 62.9 percent in October, but remains near its 38-year low of 62.4 percent.

Employment-to-Population Ratio

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Arkansas civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, was unchanged at 55.4 percent in October. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 45 have higher

Arkansas and U.S. Labor Force Participation (Percent, Seasonally Adjusted)



employment-to-population ratios than Arkansas. The employment-to-population ratio in Arkansas is 0.7 percentage point lower than a year earlier.

The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Arkansas was 58.7 percent in November 2008. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Arkansas occurred in January 1995 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 62.0 percent. The 10-year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 53.8 percent in February 2014. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in May 1976 when the employment-to-population ratio was 53.1 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio rose by 0.2 percentage point to 60.6 percent in October. That rate was 0.4 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 in April 2000. The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.4 percent in December 2006. The recent low occurred in October 2013 when the employment-to-population ratio dipped to 58.2 percent. The last time the employment-to-population ratio posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

